

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the present application and the indication that claims 13-21 contain allowable subject matter. The Office Action, however, tentatively rejected all pending claims 1-12 and 14-21. Specifically, claims 1, 3-6, 8-12, 14, 15 and 17-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Kunikiyo (US 6,717,267). Claims 7 and 16 stand rejected 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kunikiyo (US 6,717,267). Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kunikiyo (US 6,717,267) in view of Khan et al (US 6,853,070). Finally, claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite.

Applicant has amended claim 1 (the only independent claim) to more clearly identify a novel and non-obvious aspect of the claimed embodiments. Claim 19 is amended to address and overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

35 U.S.C 102(e) rejection in view of Kunikiyo (US 6,717,267)

As amended, independent claim 1 recites:

1. A semiconductor configuration for dissipating heat away from a semiconductor device having a plurality of power lines, the configuration comprising:

a semiconductor substrate; and

a plurality of interconnect structures disposed on the substrate and in contact therewith and extending through the semiconductor device, the interconnect structures for dissipating heat through the substrate,

wherein the plurality of interconnect structures are disposed within a power line, and

wherein the plurality of interconnect structures are substantially enveloped in an insulating layer.

(*Emphasis added.*) Claim 1 patently defines over the cited art for at least the reason that the cited art fails to disclose the features emphasized above.

In this regard, independent claim 1 has been amended to change “disposed near a power line” to “disposed within a power line.” This amended change clearly defines claim 1 over the cited art. Simply stated, the interconnect structures disclosed by Kunikiyo are not disposed within the power line. Furthermore, the interconnect structures of Kunikiyo are not substantially enveloped in an insulating layer.

For at least this reason, claim 1 (as amended herein) patentably defines over Kunikiyo. As claims 2-12 and 14-21 depend (either directly or indirectly) from amended claim 1, claims 2-12 and 14-21 are patentable by virtue of their dependency from amended claim 1.

For all of these reasons, applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance. Prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

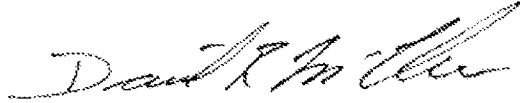
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to Office Action. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Daniel R. McClure".

Daniel R. McClure, Reg. No. 38,962

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